

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4044

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 0403

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: HSUEH YU-CH'I NAMED AS NEW ROC AMBASSADOR TO SAUDIA
ARABIA

REF: TAIPEI 6157

1. HSUEH YU-CH'I (5641/3022/7784), CURRENTLY ROC
VICE-MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WAS NAMED ON
JANUARY 15, 1975 AS NEW ROC AMBASSADOR TO SAUDIA
ARABIA TO REPLACE TIEN PAO-TAI, WHO WILL BE
RETURINING TO TAIPEI. THE 57-YEAR OLD HSUEH IS
CONSIDERED ONE OF THE MOST CAPABLE OFFICIALS IN
THE ROC FOREIGN SERVICE AND DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS
HAS HELD A NUMBER OF RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS. INCLUD-
ING DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN
(1955-67), AMBASSADOR TO CANADA (1967-70) AND
AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN (1971-73). HSUEH, ALSO A
CAPABLE PARLIAMENTARIAN, IS CONSIDERED THE
TOP-RANKING ROC EXPERT ON LAW OF THE SEA AND HAS
REPRESENTED THE ROC AT A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCES (CUSTOMS DUTY AND TRADE, ATOMIC ENERGY,
LAW OF THE SEA, ETC.).

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2. PER REFTEL, WU MEI-TS'UN (0702/2734/6722), FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE ROC'S EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE ADMINISTRATION (EPZ), WAS ORIGINALLY SELECTED IN JULY 1974 TO REPLACE AMBASSADOR T'IEKN, BUT WAS FORCED TO WITHDRAW BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR JIDDA BECAUSE HIS SECOND WIFE REFUSED TO ACCOMPANY HIM IN "SERVANT" STATUS). ONE REASON FOR WU'S ORIGINAL SELECTION WAS A REQUEST FROM SAUDI ARABIA FOR ASSISTANCE IN ESTABLISHING EXPORT PROCESSING ZONES BASED ON PETRO-CHEMICAL PRODUCTS. WHILE HSUEH HAS LITTLE EPZ EXPERIENCE, HE HAS STATED THAT HE WILL ACTIVELY PUSH FOR SINO-SAUDI ARABIAN COOPERATION IN THE EPZ'S AND OTHER FIELDS. BASED ON HIS PAST PERFORMANCE, HSUEH CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE AN ACTIVE AND REASONABLY POPULAR AMBASSADOR IN SAUDI ARABIA.

3. AMBASSADOR HSUEH WAS BORN IN SHANGHAI, FEBRUARY 17, 1917, AND WAS GRADUATED FROM THE DIPLOMACY DEPARTMENT OF CHENGCHI UNIVERSITY (1940). IN 1944 HE RECEIVED HIS MA FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA. ENTERING THE ROC FOREIGN SERVICE, HE SERVED AS VICE CONSUL IN MANILA (1945-46), SECRETARY OF THE ROC LEGATION IN MANILA (1946-48), CHIEF OF THE UN SECTION OF MOFA'S TREATY DEPARTMENT (1948-49), DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE SAME DEPARTMENT (1949-50), DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MOFA'S DEPARTMENT OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND CONCURRENTLY DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MOFA'S DEPARTMENT OF EAST ASIAN AFFAIRS (1950-51), DIRECTOR OF MOFA'S TREATY DEPARTMENT (1951-55), AND THEN HOLDING THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ASSIGNMENTS TO THE UN, CANADA AND SPAIN BEFORE RETURNING TO TAIPEI IN 1973 TO BECOME VICE-MINISTER (SEP 13, 1973). AS VICE-MINISTER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS HSUEH HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT, PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND THE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT.

4. AMERICAN OFFICIALS DEALING WITH HSUEH OVER THE YEARS HAVE FOUND HIM INFORMATIVE, HELPFUL, COMPETENT, AND VERY INTELLIGENT; HE IS THOROUGH IN HIS WORK AND QUICK TO GRASP THE SUBSTANCE OF MATTERS.

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5. HSUEH'S WIFE, HSUEH (CHUANG) HSING-YING, IS CURRENTLY IN NEW YORK CITY WITH THEIR THREE DAUGHTERS, THE YOUNGEST OF WHOM IS A STUDENT AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER HIS WIFE OR ANY OF THE DAUGHTERS WILL ACCOMPANY HIM TO JIDDA.

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